

Minutes of Amherst Fourth of July Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 17, 2022 6:30 p.m.
Johnson Room, Amherst Town Library

Attendees: Kim Ayers*, Peter Giannakopoulos*, Katherine Lockwood*, Christine Grayson*, Debbie Polatchek*, George Coddington

*Steering Committee Members

Call to order: Peter Giannakopoulos called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Minutes from January 11, 2021 meeting: Katherine Lockwood moved to approve, Christine Grayson seconded. Unanimously approved.

Volunteer Recruitment: Terri Behn OK with heading crafters. A few people reach out on the 4th of July Committee Facebook page expressing interest in volunteering so we are inviting them to Open House and upcoming meetings.

Debbie Polatchek and Katherine Lockwood will work on a Flyer to advertise Open House scheduled for March 17. This will be posted around town and also on social media. It should be ready by first week of March.

The two local hockey teams have volunteered to help on both the 3rd and the 4th. Debbie Polatchek is coordinating.

Trucks to move tables, tents, coolers: The group discussed the pros and cons of renting a UHaul truck vs. borrowing trucks. In past years the committee rented a truck on the afternoon of the 3rd, met at the storage shed and loaded it up, moving tables, tents and coolers to the high school by 4pm. The stuff was then reloaded back into the truck at the end of the fireworks. One volunteer kept the truck overnight, then drove the stuff to the green for the 4th by 7am. The truck was then reloaded at around 1pm, driven to the storage shed, unloaded and returned back to the UHaul location. It was suggested that tables could perhaps be stacked in SUVs. The committee members agreed to see if they could wrangle up and coordinate enough community members with trucks willing to help out.

Website: Christine Grayson and Peter Giannakopoulos met with Craig Richardson are now administrators of the 4th of July Committee website. Ongoing website fees will be \$9 a month. Christine and Peter will update the content and ask about posting a referring link on the Town of Amherst webpage.

Storage locker: The committee is still paying monthly and submitting the charges to the town for reimbursement. We would like the town to be build directly but first the SpareBox Storage needs be added to the town vendor list.

Food on the 3rd and 4th: No one from the Lion's Club has responded to inquiries about selling hamburgers and hot dogs on the 3rd. The committee also needs to ask about borrowing the grills on the 4th for our fund raiser. Katherine Lockwood emailed Kim Ayers and new contact name to try. Sals

Milford will provide the pizza which the committee will sell as a fund raiser. Kim Ayers will find out the quantity and variety of drinks ordered in past years.

Entertainment for the 3rd: The committee is starting to research bands for the 3rd. Committee will gather info on a few local groups and see what they would cost. The Amherst Band will play as usual. We will reach out to the juggler or magician. We need to reach out to ReMax about the hot air balloon as well. But first we need to find a volunteer to head up this event.

Animals: Discussed the possibility of putting on hold this year. Currently no one to head it up and weather was an issue (too hot) the past few years. Christine Grayson will reach out to Eden Craft Farms just in case they are interested in participating.

Artists on the Green: Katherine and Deb will touch base with the Artists

Parade Theme: The Steering Committee together with the Committee at Large will look at past themes and suggestions for themes in the past and vote. We will review the float guidance document.

March 17 Open House Prep:

The committee split up assignments for refreshments for the upcoming volunteer recruitment open house.

Next meeting will be on Sunday, March 20 at 3:00pm in the Johnson Room, Amherst Town Library.

Adjournment – Debbie Polatchek moved to adjourn the meeting. Kim Ayers seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.